

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



LETTER FROM DEI STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, SYLVIA JACOBS

Hello Friends,

I am proud to share that I have been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey (BBBSCNNJ) for the past three years. I became involved as group liaison for the BBBSCNNJ x Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) Workplace Program and later I was invited to serve on the agency's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee. I'm honored and inspired to see the great impact BBBSCNNJ and all of its volunteers have in the community and I'm happy to have this opportunity to share more about it here.

At MMC, the Fall season gives us a chance to connect with some of the youngest members of our local communities through various initiatives like our annual school supplies drive, and annual Diversity Scholarship Awards and programs like our Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program, both of which benefit Long Branch High School Students. **One of our goals is to introduce the students to healthcare careers very early on to expand their view of the opportunities they have as future leaders in any industry, especially the medical field.** With this goal in mind, I have had the pleasure of planning the BBBS group tours and presentations for the past three years, and I am excited about this new school year.

Last year, we introduced our Littles to college life through a virtual tour of Monmouth University and a summary of higher education in New Jersey. We also shared the history of Monmouth Medical Center, visited our Laboratory, Radiology, and Emergency Departments, and dressed up in protective jumpsuits and hairnets to learn what takes place in our Surgical Services Department. Our program gives students the chance to envision themselves as future clinicians, whether that means a doctor, nurse, or any other health care professionals we have here at MMC. We also provided professional photos of Littles with their Bigs at the end of the program as a reminder of what they can achieve.

We are proud of and thankful for our Bigs, who will be returning to the program, including our President and CEO, Eric Carney. Our program officially kicks off in a few weeks and we are currently recruiting staff from all levels and backgrounds to participate in our BBBSCNNJ x MMC Workplace Program this school year. **We have no doubt that with the continued support of our dynamic BBBSCNNJ Coordinator, Marybeth Yurkanin, our counselors at Long Branch High School, and our Bigs, we will be able to build healthy and fulfilling relationships with our Littles that will go beyond the program and serve our matches forever.**

Sincerely,
Sylvia Jacobs
Director of Diversity and Inclusion
RWJBarnabas Health - Monmouth Medical Center



The BIG Wait

Miguel is in the Gifted & Talented program at his school, and he just started 4th grade. He has a variety of interests that include reading, going to the park, and he's even taken guitar lessons. People who know Miguel consider him intelligent, funny, and friendly. Miguel is excited to have a Big Brother to spend time outdoors with and try out hiking.

APPLY TO BE A BIG: mentornj.org/beabig

Our **MISSION PARTNERS** support the fundraising efforts, mission, and vision of BBBSCNNJ throughout the year.

MISSION MAKERS



Hackensack Meridian Health



THE Morris & Clara Weshnak Family Foundation

VISION MAKER



MENTOR MAKERS



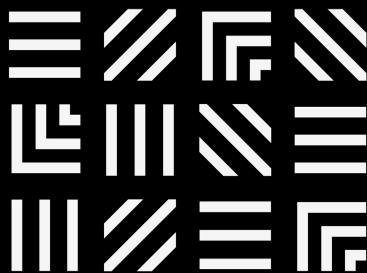
PEERLESS Beverage Co.





YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: Catching up with Meshach & Blair

With the company and support of his Big Brother Blair, Little Brother Meshach has picked up a new hobby this summer! Meshach and Blair talked about going fishing together ever since they were first matched last year. Dreams came true when they attended a CARES event this summer with Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery and received a fishing rod. Now they have the supplies needed to go whenever the opportunity arises. We know Meshach wasn't fishing for compliments, but we think there is no de-baiting that he's a fin-tastic fisherman! We look forward to seeing what other new and exciting hobbies they pick up during their second year of friendship.



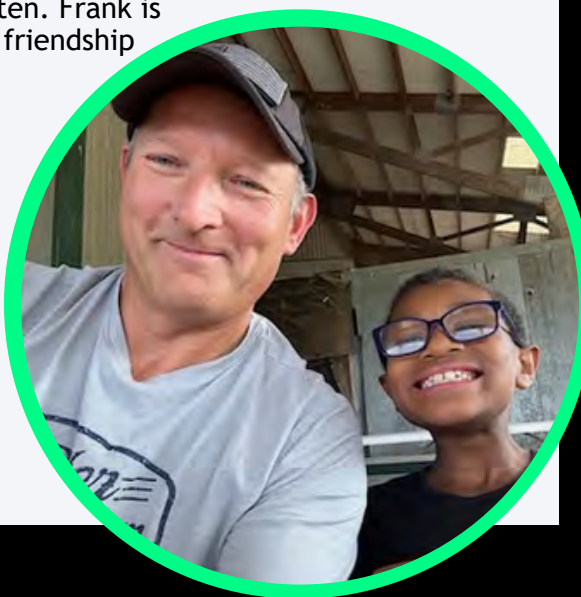
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sara Irizarry
Bilingual Case Manager

Since joining BBBSCNNJ 4 years ago Sara has helped to expand our reach within the Hispanic community as a Bilingual Case Manager. She spends a lot of time getting to know our matches through what we call *match support calls*. During these calls Sara gets to chat with Bigs, Littles, and their parent/guardian, providing guidance and ensuring that above all else, the Little feels safe and supported by their Big. **One piece of advice she often gives to new Littles, "A Big is someone to help guide you in focusing on things that you will need in your life like social skills, finance management, college applications, and more."** This advice is especially important in Hispanic communities where children often take on big responsibilities as translators for parents and relatives. One match that's had a huge impact on Sara was a family involved in the program hosting a lemonade and empanada stand to raise money for BBBS, "The genuine gratitude that I see from Littles and their parents is one of the greatest highlights of my job."

MATCH HIGHLIGHT: Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

Little Brother Emanuel and Big Brother Frank will celebrate their 2-year match anniversary this year. They've filled their time together with new life experiences for Emanuel including going to the beach, attending an NFL game, and swimming. Frank has shared that it's been very rewarding to see Emanuel's personal and academic growth. He's also been intentional about learning Emanuel's interests and discussing his future plans to become the first in his family to attend college. Frank is committed to making sure Emanuel knows what opportunities are out there for him in the future, something Emanuel asks about often. Frank is hopeful their friendship will create a long-lasting impact and he's grateful for this experience, "Our time together has flown by, and I could not have asked for a better match."



FUN FACT: Sara's favorite band is BOMBA ESTÉREO



Check them out on Spotify!





HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR SEPTEMBER MATCHES!



Big Sister Jenn and Little Brother Ben spent a day at their local library researching and creating posters for Hispanic Heritage Month to educate themselves and others about Ben's culture. ¡Que bueno!

10 Years
Big Sister Jennifer
& Little Sister Nevaeh

8 Years
Big Sister Jeanne
& Little Sister Jonajah

7 Years
Big Sister Jenica
& Little Sister Megan

6 Years
Big Brother Joe
& Little Brother Logan

5 years
Big Brother Richard
& Little Brother Alex

4 years
Big Sister Danielle
& Little Sister Sherlyn

Big Sister Sarann
& Little Sister Melanie

Big Sister Catherine
& Little Sister Riley

Big Sister Sofia
& Little Brother Ari

Big Brother Michael
& Little Brother James

3 years
Big Sister Elaine
& Little Sister Talya

Big Brother Angel
& Little Brother Ostin

Big Sister Jennifer
& Little Sister Jye-Asia

Big Sister Rebecca
& Little Sister Farrah

Big Brother John
& Little Brother Dazay

2 Years
Big Brother David
& Little Brother Marcus

Big Brother Gregory
& Little Brother Andres

Big Sister Tania
& Little Brother D'ai

Big Brother Joel
& Little Brother Shaheed

Big Brother Daniel
& Little Brother Calvin

Big Brother Justin
& Little Brother Patrick

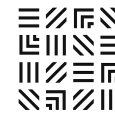
Big Brother Paul
& Little Brother Andrew

1 Year
Big Sister Megan
& Little Sister Angelina

Big Sister Donna
& Little Brother Landon

Big Brother David
& Little Brother Luis

Big Sister Rachel
& Little Sister Hannah



A LITTLE TIME CREATES BIG IMPACT

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Thank you to all who supported our Volleyball Tournament & Big Shots Golf Classic

